Development of Mumbai and Delhi airports

2906. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for developing Mumbai and Delhi airports to the international standards has been sent back to the Ministry of Civil Aviation with a rider to make them first as independent companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Lokayukta for tax-related complaints

†2907. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to appoint Lokayukta for quick disposal of tax-related complaints;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to reduce the number of tax related forms to streamline the tax system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) A proposal to create the Institution of Income-tax Ombudsman for effective redressal of taxpayers' grievances is under consideration of Central Government.

(b) Details of functions and powers of the Ombudsman are under examination of the Government.

(c) Rationalization and simplification is an ongoing process. The Income tax Rules, 1962 are amended from time to time to, *inter-alia*, reduce the number of tax-related forms.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Recently, notifications have been issued vide S.O. No. 878(E) and S. No. No. 879(E) dated 31.7.2002 substantially reducing the number of forms for returns of tax deducted/collected at source.

Institution of IT-Ombudsman

2908. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee on Direct Taxes has proposed setting up of an independent institution of IT-Ombudsman;

(b) whether such an institution will operate from 10 tax paying cities and all the State Capitals; and

(c) whether the IT-Ombudsman will also enquire into practice and performance of all classes of tax professionals on complaints filed by the tax payers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) the proposal for creation of the institution of Income-tax Ombudsman, along with its functions and powers, is under consideration of the Government.

Pension for Senior Citizen Scheme

2909. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pension for Senior Citizen Scheme is likely to impose upon the Centre a burden on account of hefty interest subsidy;

(b) whether Government have committed itself to bridging the gap on the returns earned by LIC on the premium collected and assured return of 9 per cent;

(c) whether Government propose to deploy the premium collections on Golden quadrilateral Project of NHAI which would ease the subsidy burden of Government; and